Th Information Disclosur Stat ment

The Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's comments relating the Information disclosure statement.

In the Claims

Cancel claims 1-21 without prejudice to filing continuations, continuations-in-part of divisional applications. Add new claims 22-27.

22.   (New) A method for detecting cancer in a subject comprising:

contacting a biological sample obtained from said subject with a monoclonal antibody that binds to a fibrinogen degradation product (FDP) epitope of the beta chain of fibrinogen having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO 1 and determining the presence or absence of said FDP, wherein fibrin, fibrinogen and fibrinogen fragments D and E are not detected.

23.   (New) The method according to claim 22 wherein the step of determining the presence or absence of said FDP is performed using (and) enzyme-linked immunoadsorbent assay.

24.   (New) The method according to claim 22 wherein said monoclonal antibody is generated using an immunogen prepared from a peptide having an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ. ID. NO. 2.

25.   (New) The method according to claim 22 wherein said subject is a mammal.

26.   (New) The method according to claim 25 wherein said animal is a human.

27.   (New) The method according to claim 22 wherein in said biological sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, plasma, urine, cervical secretions, bronchial aspirates, sputum, saliva, feces, synovial fluid and cerebrospinal fluid.

Remarks

The Examiner has raised numerous rejections. However, one consistent comment in common with all basis for rejection is that the monoclonal antibody used as the capture antibody in the assay of the present invention cannot be distinguished from the antibodies used in the cited references. The Applicants respectfully disagree and